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Message Text

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17
ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 /024 W
---------- 011119
R 200727Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9231
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 2530

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OREP (MORGAN, ROBERT)
SUBJECT: CODEL MORGAN

1. DURING BUSY TWO DAYS (APRIL 15 AND 16) CODEL CALLED ON THE AMBASSADOR, CHINESE OFFICIALS, HAD TALKS WITH U.S. MILITARY REPRESENTATIVES, AND TOURED A FARM AREA OUTSIDE OF TAIPEI.

2. DURING CALL ON THE AMBASSADOR, THE SENATOR EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE -- PARTICULARLY INSOFAR AS IT RECOGNIZES TAIWAN AS A PART OF CHINA -- WOULD HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT HERE AND CALL INTO QUESTION THE VALUE OF U.S. COMMITMENTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. AMBASSADOR SAID WORKING AND PERSONAL RELATIONS WITH GROC OFFICIALS HAD REMAINED EXCELLENT, AND THAT AS WE MOVED FURTHER ALONG THE ROAD OF IMPLEMENTING THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE DETAILED ATTENTION WOULD HAVE TO BE PAID TO THE SUBSTANCE OF OUR POST-DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO SECURITY.

3. SENATOR MORGAN AND PREMIER CHIANG DISCUSSED US/ROC RELATIONS AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE. NEVERTHELESS, THE SENATOR TOLD THE PREMIER HE BELIEVES SENATE AND U.S. WILL WISH TO CONTINUE CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THE ROC. HE INVITED THE PREMIER TO COMMENT ON CURRENT INTERNAL EVENTS IN THE PRC; ON PRC/USSR RELATIONS; AND ON THE SOVIET THREAT TO PRC AS A DETERRENT TO PRC ACTION AGAINST ROC. THE SENATOR
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LATER SAID HE FELT THIS DISCUSSION WAS USEFUL. DISCUSSION

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ALONG SINILAR LINES TOOK PLACE DURING A CALL ON VICE FOREIGN MINISTER H. K. YANG.

4. DURING ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSION WITH U.S. MILITARY REPRESENTATIVES, THE SENATOR INQUIRED INTO VARIOUS MILITARY FUNCTIONS AND AGAIN EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN THAT NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH THE PRC WOULD INVOLVE "ABANDONING" TAIWAN.

5. THE VISIT RECEIVED USUAL FULL MEDIA COVERAGE. CNA INTERVIEW WITH THE SENATOR APPEARED IN ALL MAJOR PAPERS APRIL 16. SENATOR REPORTED SAYING HE DID NOT BELIEVE U.S. WOULD TURN ITS BACK ON A FRIEND LIKE THE ROC, AND THAT RECENT SCHLESINGER COMMENTS ON U.S. MILITARY AID TO THE PRC COULD ONLY BE A WARNING TO THE USSR SINCE IT COULD NOT BE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED BY THE USG. A LONG ARTICLE IN APRIL 16 ENGLISH-LANGUAGE CHINA NEWS QUOTED SENATOR AS SAYING U.S. SHOULD KEEP SOME U.S. FORCES IN THE ROC AS A SYMBOL OF OUR COMMITMENT TO ITS SECURITY. ARTICLE SAID: "THE SENATOR REFUTED THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT'S RATIONALE THT THE END OF AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN VIETNAM JUSTIFIES THE COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. ARMED FORCES FROM TAIWAN AS THEY ARE NO LONGER NEEDED TO PROVIDE LOGISTIC SUPPORT. 'THERE WERE AMERICAN TROOPS HERE PRIOR TO THE VIETNAM WAR,' THE SENATOR QUESTIONED, 'WHY SHOULDN'T THERE BE ANY AFTER?'" SENATOR REPORTEDLY SAID HE WAS NOT SURE IF SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE WOULD APPLY TO U.S. INTELLIGENCE UNITS STATIONED HERE TO MONITOR PRC BROADCASTS. ASKED IF THE SENATOR HAD BEEN CORRECTLY QUOTED, MILITARY ESCORT OFFICER TOLD POLCOUNS THAT CHINA NEWS STORY HAD USED SOMEWHAT STRONGER LANGUAGE THAN THE SENATOR DID.
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